

Saturday, January 28, 12

Humans move things





moving rocks



moving electrons

To get things moving, we need to exert a force.

Newton's second law: Force = mass * acceleration (F = ma) so also acceleration = force / mass

SI Units:

1 Newton force = 1 kg mass * 1 m/s/s acceleration

Other units:

 \cdot "Lbs" or "pounds mass" is mass in English measure (also, "slugs"!) • "Pounds force" is force in English measure

From the google (you can type in equations and google handles the units):

(1 kg) * 1 ((meter / second) / second) = 1 newton

This leads to definitions for energy and work in physics:

Work is done when a force is applied through a distance. Energy is the capacity for doing work. So:

Energy = force * distance

SI Units:

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1 Joule energy = 1 Newton force * 1 Meter distance
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(Since a newton is a unit of force, and F=ma, we can reduce this to:

1 joule = kg * 1 m / s / s * 1 m)

Power is the rate of work.

Power = Energy / Time

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SI Units:

1 Watt power = 1 Joule energy / 1 second time

so also

1 Joule = 1 Watt * 1 second
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We can perform work against the force of gravity to store energy in the position of objects in a gravitational field.

Gravitational Potential Energy = mgh

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m = mass
g = gravitational acceleration = 9.8 m/s/s
h = height
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Kinetic energy is the energy of objects in motion:

Kinetic Energy = $\frac{1}{2}$ mv2

m = mass in kg
v = velocity in meters/second



Rotational Work

Same as linear work, but the force is traveling in a circle.

So 1 Newton force applied to a 1 meter lever pushed through 360 degrees = 6.28 Joules (The force moves through the circumference of the circle = 2 pi meters)



(1 newton) * 1 meter * (360 degrees) = 6.28318531 joules





On first swing, from 1st Law we know: KE ~= PE (energy is conserved)



At end, we note 1st and 2nd laws. All of the original PE is *somewhere* (heat, noise, etc.), but is more diffuse and less useful to us.